THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No such commitment was given on behalf of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no specific programme under the Ministry of Mines in the Eighth Five Year Plan. However, to make good any damage that may be caused due to mining operations; Ruie-41 of the Mineral conservation and Development Rules, 1988 requires the mining lease holders not only to carry out the mining operations in a manner that would cause least damage to the flora of the area but also to:—

(i) take immediate measures for planting in the same area or any other areas selected by the Controller General or the authorised officer not less than twice the number of trees destroyed by reason of any prospecting or mining operations;

(ii) look after them during the subsistence of the licence/lease after which these trees shall be handed over to the State Forest Department or any other authority as may be nominated by the Controller General or the authorised officer; and

(iii) restore, to the extent possible, other flora destroyed by prospecting or mining operations.

Stock Piling of aluminium

3919. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a declining trend in domestic consumption and consistent stock piling of aluminium;

(b) whether Government have received representation from the Aluminium Association of India in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken/ proposed in this regard; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the report which appeared in Hindustan Times of the 28th November, 1992 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) There has been a marginal decrease in consumption of aluminium in 1991-92 when compared with 1990-91.

(b) yes. Aluminium Association . of India has submitted a representation to Government pointing out the unsatisfactory trend in aluminium consumption due to high prices including excise levies and requesting for reduction in the present level of excise duty on aluminium and semi-fabricated products to lower prices and stimulate demand.

(c) & (d) There is no control by the Government on the price or distribution of aluminium, and producers are free to fix prices. Government have noted the report that appeared in the Hindustan Times in its issue dated 28th November, 1992 which refers to the representation of the Aluminium Association of India mentioned in part (b) of the question.

Clearance of Aluminium Projects

3920. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the public/ joint and private sector projects pending clearance of Government in aluminium sector;

(b) what are the expansion/ modernisation plans of existing aluminium companies during Eighth Plan separately for these sectors;

(c) what is the present production and consumption of aluminium;

(d) what is the projected growth during the Eighth Plan and production plans to meet the same;

(e) what steps are being taken to